



## **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING**

**Olympia** – Vice-Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Susan Brady, found 79 elected and 7 appointed officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Thursday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state law to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15<sup>th</sup> reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Voters take this law very seriously and expect elected officials to take it seriously as well,” Brady said. “Regardless of whether the elected position has a salary or is considered voluntary, public officials must disclose their financial affairs.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 7, 2003 and letter with an opportunity to pay a \$100 fine and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on May 23, 2003.

Officials found in violation at the hearing may appeal the decision to the full, five-member Commission for review of the action taken by the Chair.

Government officials from Thurston County who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing were:

**Ray Price**, Member of the Housing Finance Commission, was found in violation of state law and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

**Connie Michener**, Member of the Judicial Conduct Commission, was found in violation of state law and assessed a civil penalty of \$200 due to past violations.

**Michael McClarrinon**, Fire Commissioner, Thurston Fire Protection District #17, was found in violation of state law and assessed a civil penalty of \$500 due to past violations.

Civil penalties were determined using a standard process that increases depending upon circumstances such as past violations or if reports are filed at the time of the enforcement hearing.

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